



Request For USDA State & Private Forestry Grant

Applicant: Georgia Forestry Commission P.O. Box 819 Macon, GA 31202

Project Name: GEORGIA CWPP

Project Lead: Alan Dozier, 478-751-3490, adozier@gfc.state.ga.us

Project Proposal Abstract: Georgia's plan for completing CWPP's will begin at the county level for each of 159 counties; starting first with high fire occurrence counties. CWPP's will integrate with Georgia Emergency Management Agency county disaster mitigation plans, Georgia Forestry Commission county fire plans, and individual county fire department master fire plans. **The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment will be utilized** to map and illustrate risk for each CWPP. CWPP's will qualify Georgia for a **FEMA approved Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan**. CWPP's will **segue into county level fire prevention, Firewise, NIMS, and preparedness**. This proposal will support funding for at least 2/3 coverage of Georgia counties or **100 CWPP's over a 3 year period**. Three people will be hired for the grant period to include a Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment **GIS position** and **two staff to promote and write CWPP's** with help from the local government and communities.

Partnering Agencies and Groups / Individuals: Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia State Firefighter's Association, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, USDA-Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, Georgia Association of County Commissioners, local county government.

Project Location: (Statewide) We will begin by choosing top communities at risk according to the SWRA as well as counties in the successful 32 county fire prevention grant (high fire occurrence counties).

Expected Completion Quarter: October 2010. or 4th quarter 2010, 3yrs.

Total Federal Funding Request: (\$575,000.00)

**Total Proposal Budget
(Including Matching Funds):**

Cost Category	Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total
Personnel (3)	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$900,000.00
Materials & Supplies	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
Travel	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
Consultants	0	0	0
Overhead / Administration	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
Equipment Usage / Rental	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$120,000.00
Printing	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Other	0	0	0
TOTALS	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$1,150,000

Project Description and Benefits:

Georgia is one of the fastest growing states with 5 of the fastest growing county populations in the nation. Southern Wildfire Risk assessment published results identify nearly **12,000 Georgia communities with more than 5,000 rated high or very high for wildfire risk**. Georgia ranks **2nd in the region** (NC is 1st) in acres of WUI with **9 million acres or about 25% of Georgia's land area being WUI**.

The Georgia CWPP project is designed to benefit the forest in the following ways relative to our national interests:

Enhance Working Forest Landscape – Georgia has the largest acreage of commercially available forest land of any state in the nation. CWPPs will allow for continued working forests amongst a growing population of high risk communities; providing fire use and public safety as priorities.

Protect Forests from Harm – Georgia's CWPP's will address both sides of fire and forest management issues with protection of the forest viewed as a necessity for provision of clean air, clean water, healthy ecosystems, and wood products.

Enhance Benefits Associated with Trees & Forests– CWPP's will teach communities what it takes to remain compatible with properly managed forests including use of prescribed burning, forest management, In order to enjoy all the benefits of trees and forests. CWPPs will address such perspectives.

The proposed project will have a positive impact on the following regional issues:

Fractured Forests – Through CWPP's community leaders will become familiar with the importance of keeping forests intact for the general health of the community.

Wildland Fire and Forest Fuels – CWPP's will address fuel treatments necessary to manage fuels, especially near high risk areas.

Changing Forest Products" Markets – There is considerable movement in Georgia to promote new products such as pine straw harvesting, production of energy pellets from harvested woody forest fuels, and ethanol production from wood waste. All of these products could be related to community wildfire protection in terms of forest fuels management.

Forest Health – Prescribed burning is essential for health of southern ecosystems. CWPP's will promote prescribed burning as a way to protect communities from devastating wildfires and for forest health.

Water Quality and Quantity – Georgia currently suffers from record drought with pending litigation among GA, FL, and AL and the Army Corps of engineers over water sharing. Atlanta's water source, Lake Lanier, has an estimated 4 months worth of water and our winter is predicted to be warm and dry. Now would be an excellent time to educate communities on the benefits of forests in relation to water for the community.

Project Evaluation Criteria Discussion:

The Georgia CWPP project meets the established criteria in the following ways:

National and Regional Relevance – Documenting communities at risk and designing mitigation recommendations.

Prioritization – CWPP's and use of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment will help Georgia to address wildfire issues by priority instead of using a shot gun approach.

Meaningful Scale – With the proposed 100 CWPP's in hand we will be able to provide direction statewide on prevention, mitigation and preparedness initiatives. Hopefully bringing more meaning to National Fire Plan Efforts.

Collaboration – We feel that collaboration with emergency management and pursuing some of the FEMA perspectives for mitigation is an innovative approach that may show success in local government involvement in taking responsibility for wildfire and forest stewardship.

Outcomes – Once the 100 counties for this project are identified we will track progress on a map and keep records of successes and difficulties by county. Future initiatives will be influenced by the outcome of these CWPP's.

Technology – This project will facilitate use of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment, GIS technology, integrating it into county level emergency management considerations.

Integrated Delivery – So far we have considered our federal land management partners and NGO's in our efforts and will continue to do so. Bringing emergency management and FEMA into the mitigation efforts for wildfires may accelerate our progress by adding needed resources and meaning to CWPPs.

Leverage – We hope to use this process to leverage FEMA fire prevention and mitigation funding as a way to get on the ground accomplishments.

Influence Positive Change – State and Federal conservation agencies alone cannot save the entire population from devastation from wildfires nor can we successfully educate the entire public. Change pretty much occurs at local levels after the local communities make a decision for change. Hopefully this approach will provide additional success with local decisions for programs such as Firewise, Fire Prevention, and general forest conservation and management.

Timelines – This will be a 3 year concentrated effort for completing CWPP's which will last through FY10. We will assign an existing fire staff to organize this project, hire a GIS person for Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment support, and hire two field type staff for visiting and generating CWPP's. Local Georgia Forestry Commission employees will work with partners to establish the CWPP's.

**Project Evaluation Criteria
Discussion (Continued):**

The Georgia Forestry Commission Chief of Forest Protection will place statewide priority on completion of CWPP's and garner the support of the State Forester, Forest Management Chief, Field Operations Director, Community Forestry Program Manager, Communications Chief, and District leadership.

We will outline goals and expectations for this project into performance management documents and track and compare progress statewide.

We will document and report success in such a way as to provide valuable information regionally on this approach.